A Guide to Citing References in Chemistry Using ACS Style

- ACS (American Chemical Society) style is the standard citation style for chemistry.
- The ACS style must be used when citing references in your laboratory reports.
- This guide includes instructions on citing references within the body of the text, and provides examples of the most common ACS style citation formats for different publication types.
- Resource List:

CITING REFERENCES IN TEXT

ACS suggests citing references in text in one of the following manners:

**By superscript numbers**
Oscillation in the reaction of benzaldehyde with oxygen was reported previously.3 The Royal Society of Chemistry reports that noble gas molecules have been detected in space.4

**By italic numbers in parentheses**
Oscillation in the reaction of benzaldehyde with oxygen was reported previously (3). The Royal Society of Chemistry reports that noble gas molecules have been detected in space (4).

BOOKS

**Book with authors**

**Edited book**

**Chapter in an edited book**
WEBSITES

General format
Author (if available). Title of article, Date published (if available). Title of website. URL (Accessed date)


COURSE MATERIAL

Lab Manual
Costigane, B. CHEM16682 Applied Chemistry 1 Laboratory Manual; Sheridan College: Brampton, ON, 2013; pp 11-17.

Course Notes & Lectures

ENCYCLOPEDIAS

Print

Online

HANDBOOKS


JOURNAL ARTICLES

Guidelines
- Article titles from print journals are not normally included in the citation.
- Chemists use standard abbreviations for journal titles:
  ⇒ Journal of Physical Chemistry (A, B, or C) - J. Phys. Chem. A
  ⇒ Tetrahedron - Tetrahedron

Mawhinney, R. C.; Muchall, H. M.; Peslherbe, G.H. A Computational Study of the 1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition Reaction Mechanism for Nitrilimines. 


DATABASES


Spectral Database for Organic Compounds (SDBS); mass spectrum; SDBS No.: 4778; RN 87-86-5; http://riodb01.ibase.aist.go.jp/sdbs/ (accessed June 14, 2010).

MSDS

Hard copy (paper)

Online

MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS

Print
Schwarcz, J. Green chemistry is becoming a red-hot field. The Gazette, Apr 11, 2010, p A15.


Online